8135 b 4
2

AN EXPLANATION OF THE WORD EQUALITY.

THE perverſe ſenſe impoſed on the word EQUALITY, by the folly or the fears of ſome of our countrymen, is as dangerous as it is abſurd, and they may probably ſee the day when they may repent of having infuſed into the minds of the people, a notion that the EQUALITY to be contended for, is an *equality of wealth and poſſeſſions*. If, by continually repeating this idea, the *uninformed*, or, (as they are arrogantly ſtyled by the *penſioned* Mr. B****) the "SWINISH MULTITUDE," ſhould take it into their heads, that they are juſtified in *inforcing* ſuch a ſyſtem, the conſequences will reſt upon thoſe, who, by a perverſion of terms, have wickedly or fooliſhly propagated ſo dangerous a doctrine.

The Equality inſiſted on by the Friends of Reform, is an EQUALITY OF RIGHTS; or, in other words that *every perſon* may be equally entitled to the protection and benefits of ſociety: may *equally* have a voice in the election of thoſe who make the laws, by which he is affected in his *liberty*, his *life* or his *property*; and may have a fair opportunity of exerting to advantage any talents he may poſſeſs. The rule is not "*Let all mankind be perpetually equal*;" God and Nature have forbidden it—but "*Let all mankind ſtart fair in the race of life.*" The *inequality* derived from labor and ſucceſsful enterprize, the reſult of ſuperior induſtry and good fortune, is an *equality eſſential to the very exiſtence of ſociety*: and it naturally follows, that the property ſo acquired ſhould paſs *from a father to his children*. To render property inſecure would deſtroy all motives to exertion, and tear up public happineſs by the roots.

47
10 1 9
98

Such are the *truths* acknowledged and avowed by the REFORMERS of the preſent day; and where, but in the wild working of a diſordered imagination, do their enemies find the dangerous doctrines with which they daily alarm the public. Are they acknowledged by the government of America? Are they to be diſcovered by the code of the French nation? Have they been avowed by *any conſtitutional Society in this kingdom?* Or are there any traces of ſuch doctrines in the *works of ANY Modern REFORMER* – Again, are the Reformers of the preſent day leſs intereſted than the abuſers in the proſperity of their country? Are Mr. *GREY* and his *numerous* coadjutors, men without property? Let the oppoſers of Reform come forward and anſwer theſe queſtions, or let us hear no more of LEVELLERS, or LEVELLING SYSTEMS: nor let an odium be thrown on *great and unchangeable truths*, from the *WILFUL PERVERSION OF A WORD.*

TO THE SWINISH MULTITUDE.

WE hope the above definition of a word, which has been ſo baſely perverted by the enemies of the human race, will be ſo far invincible in its operation, as to remove the prejudices which have been excited in the minds of the ignorant, againſt the FRIENDS OF REFORMATION, and the Advocates for an equality of Rights; an equality ſo eſſential to the preſervation of our LIBERTIES, and the promotion of our HAPPINESS, that it is impoſſible that either the one or the other of thoſe bleſſings can be ſecured to us, unleſs this is obtained; and as a preliminary to the acquiſition of it, we would recommend to our countrymen, a ſerious and impartial conſideration of the advantages which would reſult to them from ſo valuable a privilege; and we would hope that this conſideration would rouſe them from that apathy which they are immerſed in, and which will, unleſs awakened to a ſenſe of their danger, terminate in a total privation of their civil and religious liberty. The ſyſtematic oppoſition which has been made, during the preſent Adminiſtration, to the reaſonable claims of the People, ſufficiently juſtifies ſuch an apprehenſion— "They barbarouſly imagine, that a more equal participation of bleſſings, would tend to a diminution of their perſonal power and authority; and thus, are far leſs anxious to increaſe the comforts,

comforts, or relieve the ſufferings of the indigent and oppreſſed, than to perpetuate their ignorance, and to enſure the continuance of their own dominion.

Permit us to appeal to your judgment, by aſking you what connection can there be between a ſyſtem of favouritiſm, taxation, corruption, and the proſperity of a nation? Is it not to be attributed to an uniform adherence to this wretched ſyſtem, that the nation groans under the preſſure of a debt, which amounts to the enormous ſum of TWO HUNDRED and SEVENTY MILLIONS,* and to aggravate our diſtreſs and inſult our misfortune, the ponderous load is rendered intolerable, when we recollect that a great portion of the taxes, which ought to be appropriated to the liquidation of the debt, is ſquandered upon A PROFLIGATE RACE OF PLACEMEN † and PENSIONERS; the only qualifications they have to boaſt of, as the baſis of their merit, is a total deſertion of the cauſe of the people, and a ſervile attachment to the fountain of emolument and honors.

Let the magnitude of the object which you have to contend for, ſtimulate your moſt vigorous exertions, in co operating with the friends of Reform, in order to obtain a full, free, and equal Repreſentation of the People, in the Houſe of Commons; which has been by the gravitating power of ſecret and undue influence, attracted into the vortex of corruption.

We ſhall now conclude with reminding our countrymen, in order to encourage them in the purſuit of this momentous object, that they have REASON, TRUTH, and JUSTICE, for their auxilaries; therefore we hope they will not be intimidated by the feeble and ineffectual oppoſition which may be made to their claims, by a phalanx of Placeman and Penſioers, who have no other virtues to unite them but corruption, and no other arguments to oppoſe our reaſoning, but ſophiſtry and declamation.

* Two Hundred and Seventy millions, is the ſum of which the human mind can hardly have an idea—were it laid down in Guineas, cloſe together in a line, it would extend 4300 miles in length—were it laid down in Shillings, it would extend three times and a half round the world, and would require 60,400 horſes to draw it, at the rate of Fifteen Hundred weight each horſe!!!

Extracted from Holt's characters of the Kings and Queens of England.

† A few are here enumerated out of many hundreds:

	£. pr. annum.
Lord Sandwich, Master of the Hounds,	2000.
Marquis Conwallis, Constable of the Tower,	1000.
Marquis of Bath, Groom of the Stole, - -	2000.
Twelve Lords of the Bedchamber, - - -	1000. each
Twelve Grooms of the Bedchamber, - -	500. each
Lord Aylesford, Captain of the King's Beef-eaters - - - - - - - - - -	1000.
Mr. Pitt, Admiral of the Cinque Ports, - -	4000.
Mr. Pitt, First Lord of the Treasury, - - -	4000.
Mr. Pitt, Chancellor of the Exchequer - -	1800.
Lord Chatham, First Lord of the Admiralty,	3000.
Duke of Richmond, Master of the Ordnance,	1500.
Gen. Howe, Lieutenant, - - - - - - -	1100.
Mr. Dundas, Secretary of State, supposed to be worth - - - - - - - - - -	10,000 pr. annum
Mr. Dundas, Treasurer of the Navy, - -	4000.
Mr. Dundas, President of the India Board, Salary and Patronage unknown!	
Lord Walsingham and Lord Chesterfield, Postmasters General, - - - - - -	2000. each
Master of Greenwich Hospital, - - - - -	1000.
Lord Chamberlain of the Household, - - -	1200.
Vice Chamberlain, - - - - - - - - -	1159.
Treasurer of the Household, - - - - - -	1200.
Comptroller, - - - - - - - - - - -	1200.
Captain of the Pensioners (Lord Falmouth) -	1000.
His Lieutenant, - - - - - - - - - -	500.
Master of the King's Horse, - - - - - -	1266.
The Keeper of the King's Hawks (though he has none)	1374

Mr. REEVES, who has come forward as Chairman of the new association at the Crown and Anchor, has some substantial reasons for opposing all levelling systems—he holds appointments to the amount of three thousand pounds a year; being Chief Justice of Newfoundland, standing council to the Mint, Receiver of the police, Clerk and Secretary to the Board of Trade, a Commissioner of Bankrupts, &c. &c.

The annual amount of the taxes is twenty millions of pounds‡; the weight of it in gold would be upwards of 156 tons:

‡The taxes collected amount to the above sum, though when the expence of collecting, &c. is defrayed, the surplus does not much exceed seventeen millions.

The paper will not permit the list to be extended.